

COUNCIL FOR THE NORTHERN CAVING COMMUNITY

British Caving Association

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21 March 2026 at 10:00am

In order to vote, club representatives will need to be authorised in writing by a club officer. This should be provided to the CNCC Secretary, in advance of the meeting.

- 1.0 Apologies for absence, and verification of quorum
(*Quorum is 10 member clubs at a general meeting*)
- 2.0 Declaration of conflicts of interest
- 3.0 Applications for membership (Appendix A)
Combined Caving & Diving Club
- 4.0 Acceptance of minutes from 2025 AGM
- 4.1 Matters arising (and updates) from 2025 AGM

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS

OFFICER	ACTION	UPDATE
Jill	Finalise 2024 AGM minutes	Done
Jill	Prepare draft 2025 minutes and circulate to clubs	Done
Kath	Finalise 2024 accounts	Done
Matt	Publish a PR/Comms piece about AGM outcomes	Done
Matt	Publicise appeal for volunteers re Foxholes (GG)	Done
Gary	Update website with new Officers/Clubs/Committee	Done
Todd	Representation/Membership - set up Working Group	Done
Jill & Officers	Manual of Operations - review by Officers	Ongoing

5.0 OFFICER REPORTS

(Available one week prior to meeting)

5.1	Chair	Todd Rye
5.2	Secretary	Jill Bolton
5.3	Treasurer	Kath Davis
5.4	Conservation Officer	Kay Easton
5.5	Access Officers	James Alderson/Mike Appleton
5.6	Training Officer	Ian Patrick
5.7	Other reports	<i>(optional)</i>

6.0 ELECTION OF CNCC COMMITTEE for the year 2026-2027

6.1 CLUBS (Appendix B)

The CNCC requires a maximum of 14 clubs to comprise the Committee. By the deadline (24 January), 13 full member clubs had indicated their intention to stand for election.

The list, along with their attendance record and supporting statements, is shown in Appendix B. Clubs must attract a minimum of **3 VOTES** at the AGM, in order to be elected.

6.2 INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE (Appendix C)

By the deadline, one formal application had been received for the Individual Caver Representative position. This is shown in Appendix C.

All persons present at the meeting may vote for this role, and a candidate must attract a minimum of **3 VOTES**, in order to be elected.

7.0 ELECTION OF CNCC OFFICERS for the year 2025-2026 (Appendix D)

By the deadline (24 January), three of the current elected officers had indicated their intention to stand for re-election. That leaves vacancies for the Secretary, Treasurer and Access Officer positions, and we have candidates for all these roles.

The list of candidates, and their supporting statements, is shown in Appendix D. Again, candidates must attract a minimum of **3 VOTES** at the AGM, in order to be elected.

8.0 CO-OPTED OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES (Appendix E)

A list of co-opted positions and current holders is shown in Appendix E. This is for information only, and will be presented to the June meeting for confirmation, along with any new roles.

9.0 OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

9.1 EXPLORATION FUND (Appendix F)

The Exploration Fund is described in Appendix F. The AGM is asked to confirm its continuing support of the scheme.

10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 USE OF X (formerly Twitter) (Appendix G)

10.2 REPRESENTATION REVIEW (Appendix H)

11.0 FUTURE MEETINGS *(For discussion)*

Dates for 2026-27 Meetings (provisional)

13 June	9:30	Committee meeting
24 October	9:30	Committee meeting
16 January	9:30	Committee meeting
20 March	10:00	Annual General Meeting

APPENDIX A CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: Combined Caving & Diving Club (CCDC)
Officer: Cave Training Officer - Raymond Bell
Website: www.combinedcavingdivingclub.com
Email: combinedcavingdivingclub@gmail.com

CLUB DETAILS

Founded: 2025
Number of members: 20 (to date)
BCA member: Yes
Constitution: www.combinedcavingdivingclub.com/cavingdivingclub

About the club:

We are a small and growing group of like-minded individuals who share a passion for exploring the underground and underwater environments, both throughout the UK and further afield.

We are a newly reformed club, established from the closing down of former Ulster club because of who we will not name, and supported by many new members taking on key roles within the organisation. This provides a stronger foundation from which to develop and ensures the club is well prepared for many years of caving ahead.

Historically, we have regularly travelled to Northern England for caving activities, and we intend to continue this practice. We are committed to supporting the CNCC wherever possible and to seeking guidance and adhering to recognised best practices.

Why we are applying:

We are applying to become a full member club of the CNCC because it offers an extensive knowledge base founded on strong principles of caving, effective governance, and well-established ways of working.

The CNCC provides excellent platforms and best practices, and we would welcome the opportunity to be part of this organisation. Also, given we are kind of based in a northern region of the UK, it is the most suitable regional body for us to join.

Vote: to accept the Combined Caving & Diving Club as a CNCC Member

APPENDIX B CLUB APPLICATIONS

The following 13 clubs have applied to become members for 2026-27:

	ATTENDANCE 2025-26 (max 3)
Bradford Pothole Club Ltd	3
Craven Pothole Club	3
Earby Pothole Club	3
Grampian Speleological Group	3
Kendal Caving Club	3
Northern Boggarts	3
Northern Pennine Club	2
Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club	3
Uni of Leeds Speleological Association	2
White Rose Pothole Club	2
York Caving Club	3
York Uni Cave and Pothole Club	3
Yorkshire Subterranean Society	3

CLUB STATEMENTS

BRADFORD POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Ian Cross)

The BPC would like to continue on the committee of the CNCC. As a long-established club, having a presence in the caving community in our 93rd year and with a membership of around 320 we consistently see former cavers returning to the sport as well as introducing new people. As a club we have been involved with the CNCC from the outset and have a number of members involved in cave conservation projects as well as with Natural England.

As one of the largest clubs in the country with a very active membership both above and below water, not only in the Dales, but we also have members involved in exploration in other parts of the UK as well as taking part in foreign expeditions every year. The club arranges caving meets every other weekend which are open to both members and guests and provide visiting cavers whether from university clubs or other established clubs accommodation with a warm welcome and also providing local knowledge.

We provide an interface between cavers and the general public through our activities at our annual Gaping Gill meet by providing access to the system either via a winch directly into the main chamber and also by rigging the major routes in to the system for visiting cavers to use.

We support a number of local charities and have members who are active in the Cave Rescue Organisation, Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association and Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team.

CRAVEN POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Kevin Gannon)

The Craven Pothole Club, as a founding member, is keen to continue its longstanding contribution to CNCC by standing for election to the CNCC Committee at the forthcoming AGM.

CPC are a long-established caving club within Dales (1929). We have a large active caving membership of 270 members from all over UK and around the world. We are an active club with over 40 well-attended club trips organised throughout the year, all over the UK (Dales, Peak's, Mendip, Wales, Scotland) and trips abroad.

Our annual Gaping Gill winch took place last year and was very successful. This winch meet provides a great facility to the caving community with several entrances to the GG system rigged for 10 days with an open invitation to the caving community to visit. We also provide a great interface for the public to see and visit Gaping Gill, promoting the sport to a wider audience.

We are committed in our support of the CNCC and its initiatives.

EARBY POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Stuart Whitmey)

The Earby Pothole Club is in its 80th year, and is amongst the oldest caving clubs in the UK. Founded in 1945 we have had a long association with and have actively supported the CNCC since its inception. Mainly active in the Northern Region, although small, we have been involved in many successful digging projects, cave archaeological finds and conservation work, with members taking part in numerous overseas expeditions. Many members are also members of other caving clubs in the UK. We would wish to continue this active support of the CNCC by continuing our position on the Committee.

GRAMPIAN SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP

(Chair - Tim Lawson)

Despite recently losing one group, caving and exploration in north of the border continues to increase. Since the inclusion of Scotland within the area overseen by CNCC there has been need for representation in the region.

Although access and conservation problems are currently low-key, there is a desire for careful management and conservation of caves and karst scenery in Scotland, which the GSG, in concert with CNCC, are committed to upholding, whilst supporting similar efforts in Northern England.

The GSG hold regular meets in the Yorkshire Dales and make use of the CNCC training schemes, so maintain a close interest in the well-being of caving in the north.

KENDAL CAVING CLUB

(Vice President - Andy Gordon)

The KCC would again like to stand for renewed membership of the Committee of the CNCC. Whilst still a relatively small club, the KCC has continued a phase of increased energy and activity, and a large number of trips are occurring. There has been a steady trickle of new members, of varying levels of ability.

In addition to twice weekly local trips we have also seen visits to Derbyshire, North and South Wales, Cantabria and Vercors in the last couple of years. The club also has members involved in several digging projects.

NORTHERN BOGGARTS

(Secretary - Pete Monk)

Northern Boggarts, a local northern caving club based in Clitheroe, is happy to stand again for the committee in 2026. Our club has been on the committee since June 2009 and during this time has played an active part in promoting the interest of northern cavers. Our club has contributed to recent CNCC Newsletters including Newsletter 18. Several of our members continue to play an active part in conservation projects including, recently, assisting with the archaeological dig at Fume Pot.

Our club continues to play a lively part in the running of CNCC. One of our club members is the Conservation Officer for the CNCC, and another club member is Access Officer for the Bowland Area and the Archaeology Co-ordinator. We are happy to continue playing an active role in the CNCC and look forwards to your continuing support.

NORTHERN PENNINE CLUB

(Secretary - Peter Hambly)

The NPC is one of the oldest and largest caving clubs in the UK, with 193 members. Founded in 1946 (80 this year!) it has been responsible for some of the great caving discoveries in the Yorkshire Dales.

Although mainly an active caving club the NPC also has many members who never venture underground and we have a keen community of triathletes, climbers, walkers and cyclists.

We also have a number of junior under 18 members and runs two well attended family weekends per year. The NPC has its base at Greenclose, just outside of Clapham, that provides a focus for its activities and accommodation for both members and guests.

The NPC will continue to support the CNCC in its many activities.

RED ROSE CAVE AND POTHOLE CLUB

(President - Sam Lieberman)

As vibrant and thriving local club the Red Rose continues to be committed to facilitating access to one of the country's premier caving areas with our accommodation at Bull Pot farm. Our members continue to be at the forefront of exploration, with many on standby for the Cave Rescue as well as helping with access and conservation in the area.

We encourage endeavour to assist with younger visiting cavers, regularly hosting the annual Northern CHECC event as well as other popular gatherings throughout the year. 2026 marks the second year of our Easegill Open House event which we hope will be as popular as last year bringing folk from far and wide to taste the speleological delights of the area.

UNI OF LEEDS SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

(President - Mike Butcher)

ULSA would like to stand for re-election to the CNCC committee at the AGM this year. We have played an active role on the committee for several years, supporting improved access to caves for all cavers, and improving representation for DIMs. We will continue to ensure that the views and interests of student cavers are represented.

In the Dales, our members are active in sports trips, digging, diving, surveying, conservation and bolting. Many are also members of other caving clubs around the country. As a university club, we introduce many new, mainly young, people to caving. New cavers are the future of caving and we would like to continue helping the CNCC with the good work they do.

WHITE ROSE POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Lynnette Cadamarteri)

The White Rose Pothole Club wishes to continue to serve on the CNCC Committee. Founded in 1954, the WRPC is a very small and close-knit caving club with extensive expertise in cave survey, cave exploration and mine conversation.

We have close affiliations with UWFRA as many of our members volunteer their time on fell, cave and swift water rescues.

As a club representative on the CNCC Committee for many years, we have participated in the CNCC working group to develop the CNCC Constitution and hopefully, provided valuable input to benefit all CNCC membership now and in the future. Phil Parker is willing to continue as the primary WRPC representative, and I will be the fallback.

YORK CAVING CLUB

(Chair - Matt Ewles)

York Caving Club would like to stand again for CNCC Committee 2026-2027. We are a small and informal club (typically 25-30 members) based in York.

The north is our main area of caving, and we have regular sporting meets in the Yorkshire Dales, and exploration projects in the Northern Dales (in the area around Gretadale) and North York Moors. So, despite being a small club, we certainly get around and have our fingers in a lot of northern caving pies, in addition to close links with neighbouring clubs such as North York Moors Caving Club and the Moldywarps Speleo Group.

We would be delighted to remain part of the CNCC Committee for another year and support the direction the organisation is taking, particularly as we move to welcome participation from more individuals and other groups outside of traditional clubs. This is yet another very progressive and positive CNCC initiative.

We are also mindful that many of our members are also members of other CNCC Committee clubs (including NPC, BPC and RRCPC). Therefore, if there is competition for spaces on the Committee, we will happily consider withdrawing to allow a new-comer club to get involved.

YORK UNI CAVE AND POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Asher Goodwin)

York University Cave and Pothole Club would like to stand again for the 2026-2027 committee. We are approaching our 45th year as a club and throughout our time we have dedicated ourselves to making caving as accessible as possible. This year we have had a fantastic turnout of new cavers, as a University Club we are often the gateway to the wider caving community and we have the pleasure of seeing our students fall in love with caving. We are able to use our training facilities thanks to the support of the CNCC and the greater caving community and this has allowed us to safely build our skills and pass on knowledge.

This year and next year we will have a focus on learning and teaching rescue and first aid skills. We have been working hard towards grants and fundraising in order to buy more safety equipment and improve on our practices and create an environment that is as safe as possible.

We are one of the larger student caving clubs and while we mostly explore the Dales, we find ourselves all over this country and others as we have explored the Peaks, South Wales, the Mendips and shortly will be working on a joint Berger expedition with SUSS. This allows us to give a perspective from young cavers in the CNCC, and we hope we are able to give back to our community through being a committee club this year.

YORKSHIRE SUBTERRANEAN SOCIETY (Secretary - Fiona Durham)

The YSS welcome the opportunity to stand again for the CNCC committee. We are a very active northern caving club with over 150 members both young and not so young. Meets for all abilities are held every fortnight as well as social events, training and digging trips.

CNCC matters are on the agenda at all our committee meetings as we feel it is important. We have an opinion on most caving related matters and try to volunteer for CNCC matters whenever possible. We publicise all CNCC events, host some of their events and demonstrate that membership is a two way thing.

APPENDIX C INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE

INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE - Tim Allen

I'm happy to stand as IC Rep for a further year, continuing to work on behalf of the individual caver and supporting the fine work the CNCC are doing. I especially intend to see the Representation Review through to some sort of conclusion.

APPENDIX D OFFICER STATEMENTS

The following have notified the Secretary of their intention to stand for election:

Chair	Todd Rye
Secretary	Matt Ewles
Treasurer	Jill Bolton
Training Officer	Ian Patrick
Conservation Officer	Kay Easton
Access Officer	Mike Appleton

CHAIR - Todd Rye

I intend to run again for the role of Chair, as I have learned much in the last year, and though I still have much to learn, I hope that the Council will have me.

I hope to see out the representation review, and as both the secretary and treasurer are standing down (a huge thanks to both for their time and dedication), I feel it worth having some continuity amongst the exec.

I will however say that I plan to step down after next year if re-elected, as I am finding myself verging on having too many plates spinning.

SECRETARY - Matt Ewles

I would like to put myself forward as CNCC Secretary for 2026-2027. For those of you who don't know me, I was Secretary from 2014-2020 (and am currently CNCC's PR/Comms Officer). Therefore, I am very familiar with the requirements of the CNCC Secretary role. I am submitting this application on the eve of the AGM notification deadline on the understanding that nobody else has come forward.

Outside of CNCC, I am a member of York Caving Club and Northern Pennine Club, I have been caving/digging in our region for over 20 years.

The CNCC is in an extremely strong position at the moment, and our volunteer team are an inspiration. What they are achieving for northern caving makes me extremely proud indeed. I am particularly excited by the changes planned over the next few years to our constitution to enable greater involvement from more areas of our caving community.

Not having a secretary to ensure the efficient running of CNCC's admin would add considerable pressure to other Officers who would no doubt have to 'caretaker' the role. Therefore, I am happy to step in for one year until such a time that an enthusiastic new volunteer comes forward, to ensure the continuity of the CNCC's current momentum.

I would perform this alongside the PR/Comms role. If anyone wishes to support me in either role as an 'assistant' that would be greatly welcomed.

If anyone comes forward who is enthusiastic about taking the Secretary role between now and the AGM, I will happily withdraw my application and give you my full support. You would also no doubt have Jill's support too. I would urge anyone interested in the role to get in touch with Jill between now and the AGM to discuss, to avoid the CNCC having to be in the unenviable situation of recycling old Officers.

Therefore, I consider my name being on the ballot as a 'Plan B' and I really hope that between now and the AGM, the threat of having me back results in a 'Plan A' emerging.

TREASURER - Jill Bolton

I should like to apply for the role of CNCC Treasurer.

Since 2023, I have held the post of CNCC Secretary. During this time, I've dealt with all correspondence promptly and organised meetings (agendas and minutes) efficiently and accurately. I've also taken on additional tasks such as leading the update of the Constitution. However, I can no longer commit to attending meetings in person, so it's time for me to step aside.

Although it's no longer considered a requirement to belong to a CNCC club, I am a member of YSS and also DCC based at Alderley Edge in Cheshire.

I have lots of previous experience of working in finance, such as a Business and Taxation Lecturer at Wigan Business School, and as HM Inspector of Taxes.

Furthermore, I have been a Treasurer for the British Canoe Union NW Regional Committee and the BCU National Access Committee.

If elected, I will deal with claims promptly, keep detailed records, and present accurate accounts, in a format which is easy to understand. Furthermore, I will take advice from other officers or the committee, whenever required.

I will consult with fellow officers to agree a realistic budget for the following year, and submit this to the BCA Treasurer (who will then endeavour to ensure the BCA has sufficient funds to meet our grant claim).

Once agreed, I will monitor payments throughout the year to ensure they are in line with the budget (or identify issues at an early stage).

I intend to continue to support the CNCC, maintaining its excellent reputation as the finest regional council (in the finest caving area).

TRAINING OFFICER - Ian Patrick

Hi to all Northern Cavers and Caving Clubs. I would be very grateful if you would consider re-electing me as the CNCC Training Officer. The training workshops are going well and currently well attended.

Training is now supported by numerous trainers helping to deliver quality, consistent training, a big part of my role is now as an "administrator".

CONSERVATION OFFICER - Kay Easton

I would like to stand again for Conservation Officer, a post I have held for over ten years. I am a member of the Bradford PC and Northern Boggarts.

As Conservation Officer, I will perform a facilitative role, helping people access the support and information they need to carry out the conservation projects that they are interested in. I will work in close cooperation with the Projects Officer Andrew Hinde, whose position as an appointed officer I hope will be ratified at the first Committee meeting after the AGM.

I believe I am now the longest-serving of the elected officers, and in the interests of “new blood” I should resign. But I don’t have any great desire to give up the job and therefore am standing again for election.

ACCESS OFFICER - Mike Appleton

Many thanks for allowing me the opportunity to become the CNCC’s Access Officer. Thanks to the persuasion of Jill and Matt, I was asked to be co-opted as assistant access officer after last year’s AGM. It is a role I have enjoyed and continue to work on to get the best access arrangements for cavers.

I negotiated a better Skirwith and Strans Gill Pot agreement and am currently working with the Duchy and the Bowland co-ordinator to get a better agreement for Whitewell. I hope you will allow me to continue this work and find a suitable way forward for our other areas, including Birkwith.

I’d like to thank James Alderson for his support this year; personal circumstances have meant he has not been able to put in as much time into the role as I know he would have liked. However, this is a team effort, and his support has been invaluable.

At the January committee meeting, there was a discussion about access agreements and how / if / when the CNCC should accept them. I put in my report that any access agreements I am working on will be for the benefit of cavers.

To paraphrase: ‘Naturally, having a day role that involves meeting landowners often means striking a balance; I will always aim to find an agreement we are all happy with. I do agree with Tim that we shouldn’t be accepting a backstep in agreements where possible, and the two I have ‘negotiated’ at Yockenthwaite and Skirwith are testament to that. The new Scoska Cave agreement is a different issue and, in my view, shouldn’t be looked at in the same way as the two successes I feel I have provided. That said, as noted above, I am acutely aware that having a good working relationship with landowners is ultimately beneficial for long-term access, but I will always aim to strike an agreement that best suits cavers.’

Hopefully, the work I have done so far is a testament to that.

APPENDIX E CO-OPTED OFFICERS

For information only

To be confirmed at the next committee meeting in June.

CO-OPTED OFFICERS

Web Administrator	Gary Douthwaite
PR & Communications Officer	Matt Ewles
Assistant Training Officer	Mark Richards
Assistant Access Officer	James Alderson
Assistant Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Projects Co-ordinator	Andrew Hinde
Inclusivity Co-ordinator	Josh White
Anchor Co-ordinator	Ian Walker
Access Co-ordinators	
Bowland	Anthony Brown
Excalibur	Matt Ewles
Robinsons & Fairy Holes	Dinny Davies
Archaeology Co-ordinator	Anthony Brown
Accounts Scrutineer	Dinny Davies

BCA COUNCIL & WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

BCA Council Rep	Todd Rye
Conservation & Access	Mike Appleton
Training & Equipment Reps	
Training	Ian Patrick
Equipment	Mark Richards
Anchors	Ian Walker
Youth & Development Rep	<i>Vacant</i>

At the 2023 AGM, the committee was tasked with setting up a scheme for grants to support northern exploration. The scheme was duly set up and publicised: <https://cncc.org.uk/resources/exploration-grants/>

The CNCC welcomes applications for exploration grants across the areas we represent (northern England and Scotland), as part of an initiative to support those who seek to further our knowledge of northern caves and discover new places that others might enjoy.

Funding is primarily intended to help cover costs associated to procurement of materials and consumable items or equipment hire, but other costs will be considered.

To make an application, we will require a summary of your project including the nature of the work you are seeking funding for (eg shaft sinking, stabilisation, underground digging, diving, pitch scaling, conservation, surveying), project timeframes, the amount you need and, as accurately as possible, a costs breakdown of how this is going to be spent. All applications will be decided by CNCC Committee.

Any project receiving CNCC funding must show that all necessary permissions are in place, including landowner and/or Natural England consent where appropriate. Applications must include a conservation plan to show that all relevant aspects of conservation have been considered. This includes spoil management, precautions to minimise the impact of your work, preservation of new discoveries, restoration and cleanup of the site once work is completed, and making surface entrances safe for people and livestock.

It is important for CNCC to be transparent and publish details of projects receiving funding. Grant recipients are expected to provide follow-up on how the project has gone (or is going) once some reasonable progress has been made. The exact expectations associated to each grant may vary on a project-by-project basis.

Since then, we have received three successful applications:

- Stump Cross (Angels of the North)
- Kirtle Pot (RRCPC)
- Ongoing site in Kingsdale

The 2025 AGM established a working group to look at CNCC representation of the wider caving community. This agenda item seeks AGM support for the direction it is taking so that it may bring firm proposals to a future AGM.

The issue at hand is that CNCC ambition is to represent the caving community, as per our new name, yet membership is restricted to clubs and, with the exception of the Individual Caver Rep, the committee make up is similar.

It is fully acknowledged that what we seek is a mechanism for the caving community, outside of clubs, to find a place within CNCC if they so wish. We do recognise that although a route for wider representation needs to be offered, we do not expect many to actually engage and that CNCC will function much as before.

The working group, committee and various individuals have given the matter considerable thought. One of the most important aspects is that any reforms must keep the administrative burden to an absolute minimum. Therefore, ideas such as individual membership and creating new posts which must be filled have been ruled out.

The working group have identified two areas which need reform, membership and the make-up of the voting committee.

MEMBERSHIP

In 4.1 the constitution states, “membership will be granted only to a properly constituted club....”. In other words, only clubs can be members and only members can vote at an AGM. This needs to change. We are proposing to look more closely at allowing other organisations and un-constituted groups to become members of CNCC and have a vote at the AGM. There would be membership applications and approval by vote and there may need to be different rules to those of clubs, such as membership period and renewals.

THE COMMITTEE

The CNCC committee is made up of between ten and fourteen club positions and the Individual Caver Rep. That would remain unchanged. We are proposing two avenues of change going forward.

First, to give the six elected officer positions a vote on the committee. This is quite normal in many organisations. For CNCC this would mean there is a route for committed individuals, who may be outside the club structure, to be fully engaged with a meaningful committee vote.

Second, there is an idea being worked on where a limited number of additional committee positions are created. These would be taken up only if suitable candidates came forward possibly from the un-constituted groups or organisations which may have applied to be members. This is the subject of ongoing discussion.

It would be useful for the working group to have AGM discussion on this matter and to indicate support or otherwise for the direction we are headed in.

APPENDIX G USE OF X (formerly Twitter)

ME

(for discussion)

At the January Committee meeting, the continued use of X as a social media platform was questioned, for ethical reasons following a number of high-profile media articles. This is something I had already given some consideration to, but not yet raised, so I welcomed this discussion. Currently CNCC uses various social media platforms including UKCaving, Facebook, X, Bluesky, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads to communicate with cavers. For some time now, our followers on X have been slowly declining (although as of January 2026 we still have 548 people), which is a trend mirrored across many organisations.

The question is therefore whether our wider membership believe CNCC should still be using X?

As PR/Comms Officer, it is my job to ensure that CNCC has the widest possible outreach and engagement with northern cavers. While I, like many, are concerned by some recent stories, and have no love for X's owner, I am not sure I am in a position to make a properly informed judgement about the ethics of X when compared to other platforms. For these reasons, my recommendation is that if 548 cavers still choose to engage with CNCC via X, we should not let our personal judgements of ethics of that platform get in the way of that, and nor should CNCC set precedent for making political statements unless there is some dramatic change to the current situation.

Nonetheless, now that someone else has also raised this matter, I wanted to get a 'mood of the room' snapshot at this AGM - not necessarily a vote - just a quick (ideally five minute maximum) discussion of opinions to see if there is a strong feeling one way or the other.